

RAILROADS AND EXPRESS COMPANIES TO BE RETURNED TO THE OWNERS MARCH 1

Proclamations Were Issued By President Wilson Last Night—Failure of Congress to Act Was Given as the Reason For the Extension of the Time Originally Announced—Statement Is Made That the President Is Advised That the Railroad and Express Companies Are Not Organized to Receive Their Properties On December 30.

Washington, Dec. 24.—President Wilson tonight issued proclamations returning the railroads and express companies to private control March 1. Failure of congress to enact remedial legislation was given as the reason for extending by two months the time originally announced for relinquishing government control of the railroad properties.

In his message to congress last May President Wilson said the roads would be turned back at the end of the calendar year.

"No agreement having yet been reached by congress," Secretary Tamm said in announcing the proclamations, "it becomes necessary in the public interest to allow a reasonable time to elapse between the issuing of the proclamation and the date of its actually taking effect. The president is advised that the railroad and express companies are not organized to receive and manage their properties if actually turned over to them on December 31."

The Esch-Cummins bill designed to meet conditions incident to the return of the roads is in conference, with the prospect that an agreement on differences between the house and senate will be reached before March 1. With one provision of the

bill would order the return of the roads at the end of the calendar month in which the bill was approved, it was considered hardly likely that an agreement would be reached quickly enough to take effect on the first of January, or one month earlier than ordered by the president. There are indications of a lively fight before either house adopts the other's position on anti-trust clauses of the bill or the question of continuing the government guarantee to the roads until they can obtain increased rates to meet advanced operating costs. Also it was said tonight in congressional quarters that because of the president's decision no attempt would be made to rush through the necessary legislation.

Inasmuch as the staffs of the various systems have been busy lately with the return of the railroads to private control will involve legal and financial rather than operating questions. It is expected that the railroad administration will remain in existence with increased personnel for months after the operating officers have left the government service. Swagart, Sherman, former chairman of the house transportation committee, and now director of finance for the railroad administration, probably will

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ANOTHER CHALLENGE FOR PROHIBITION IN NEW JERSEY

Newark, N. J., Dec. 24.—The constitutionality of the federal prohibition amendment will be challenged again in the supreme court of the United States just as soon as Governor-elect Edwards takes office, it became known today. After discussing his inaugural address with democratic legislators and leaders, Mr. Edwards stated he would direct Attorney General McCran to start proceedings to pending legislation in the higher court a bill declaring beer and light wines non-intoxicating and salable in New Jersey, would be introduced.

Alexander J. Simpson of Hudson, senator-elect, has drafted a tentative bill legalizing sale of beer and light wines in New Jersey which will be sent to the house, but before it reaches the legislature, "one of the greatest constitutional lawyers in the country" would pass on it, he declared.

In support of the contemplated assault on the "dry" amendment, Mr. Edwards quoted the constitution of the United States, which says: "The powers not delegated to the United States by the constitution, nor prohibited to the states respectively, are reserved to the states respectively, or to the people."

The governor-elect declared he would use all legal resources within his power "to protect the rights of New Jersey and in the premises."

WHITE STAR LINER CANOPIR HAD A STORMY PASSAGE

Boston, Dec. 24.—The White Star liner Canopir, which left today after a stormy passage from Genoa, Naples and Ponta Delgada with 53 saloon, 40 second cabin and 1,138 steerage passengers. The steamer was delayed at quarantine for a day by heavy fog. Among the passengers were Countess Fannie Montgelas, whose husband handed Ambassador Gerard his pass when the United States declared a state of war existed with Germany. The countess, who was accompanied by her two sons, was formerly Miss Fannie Hazeltine of Grand Rapids, Mich.

Also on board was the Baroness Edith (Berwind) Kleist, wife of a German nobleman and daughter of a Philadelphia coal magnate. Rev. Thomas Sherman of Santa Barbara, Calif., another passenger, who is a son of the late General Sherman, learned upon leaving the ship of the recent death of his sister here.

WILLIAM O. JENKINS IS CHARGED WITH SEDITION

El Paso, Texas, Dec. 24.—Charges of sedition will be filed against William O. Jenkins, consular agent for the United States at Puebla, Mexico, following the alleged delivery by him of arms and ammunition to the bandits who had captured him, according to the Excelsior of Mexico City.

According to a despatch from Excelsior's correspondent at Puebla, a group of Indians testified December 17 that Jenkins handed over the war material to the outlaws as part payment of his ransom. The despatch adds that the examination of the Indians was conducted with "considerable solemnity" a number of prominent Pueblans being present at the hearing.

"CURLEY" BROWN HAS BEEN RELEASED ON \$1,000 BAIL

New York, Dec. 24.—H. D. (Curley) Brown, president of the Cuban-American Jockey Club of Maricao, a suburb of Havana, arrested in connection with the shooting of Alberto Piedra, son-in-law of the Cuban secretary of the interior, was released on \$1,000 bail today, according to advices received here from Havana. The shooting took place in the office at the race track during the running of the fifth event December 16. Piedra told the police Brown had shot him. Brown said it was an accident. There were no witnesses.

30,000 BARRELS OF WHISKEY SHIPPED FROM LOUISVILLE

Louisville, Ky., Dec. 24.—Shipment of 30,000 barrels, probably the last consignment of whiskey in the United States for export before constitutional prohibition becomes effective on January 16, 1920, began here yesterday with the movement of an initial trainload, according to a statement issued here today by distilling interests.

One Pittsburgh and three Louisville firms are named as important participants in the shipment.

The whiskey is valued at \$7,000,000 and is destined for the port of Philadelphia and will go forward daily in solid train lots until the movement is completed.

CHILDREN'S ENTERTAINMENTS IN NEW YORK CITY TODAY

New York, Dec. 24.—Christmas, the children's day of days, was dedicated afresh to children this year by New York. The nation's metropolis enjoyed a day of prosperity unequalled in its history. Will witness the climax of a series of children's entertainments on a more gigantic scale than was ever even contemplated in bygone years.

At the various headquarters of New York's hundred and one welfare and patriotic organizations it was open house for children from early this morning until late in the evening. Santa Claus have reached their Arctic stable tomorrow. Hundreds of thousands of dollars have been raised to provide for the needs of the children who live in New York's great tenement districts on the East Side and in the slums of the Bronx. Kindred organizations, where literal mountains of toys and candy were piled tonight, while an army of cooks prepared Christmas dinners for the children of the city's poor.

Police captains in Brooklyn will present tomorrow toys, shoes and clothing to 1,000 children from the poorer sections of the borough, selected through an organized canvass of the precincts by the bluecoats. In one Manhattan district today similar gifts were distributed to 1,500 children chosen by the police on a like plan. One of the biggest celebrations planned for tomorrow for need—little ones will be the result of a fund of \$100,000 contributed by the Food Shipyard corporation. With this sum about 5,000 children from Brooklyn's congested districts will be entertained in the shipyard and an effort will be made to provide every child with a new coat of clothes and a complete new outfit.

HOME MADE WHISKEY COST \$6 PER GALLON; SOLD FOR \$100

New York, Dec. 24.—Four men were arrested tonight in a raid by federal agents in a Brooklyn liquor store which was caught in the act of doing a rushing holiday business in home made whiskey. Five barrels of alcohol were seized and a quantity of the whiskey which, according to the agents, was manufactured out of raw alcohol, brown sugar and water.

The place was crowded with customers when the raid was made, and were purchasing the liquor in bottles and demijohns at prices ranging from \$75 to \$100 a gallon. Federal officials said the cost of the "whiskey" to the manufacturers did not exceed \$6 a gallon. Information in regard to the place was received by the department of justice in a letter from a little school girl who said that her father was constantly intoxicated and sick as a result of drinking liquor bought at the store.

SAYS ANNOUNCEMENT IS SATISFACTORY TO RAILROADS

Philadelphia, Dec. 24.—Thomas De Witt Cuyler, a director of the Pennsylvania railroad and chairman of the Association of Railway Executives, representing virtually all the important railroads of the country, said tonight the president's announcement regarding the return of the roads to their owners on March 1 is "admirable in its tone and substance and is entirely satisfactory to the railroad companies. They will be fully prepared and organized to take over their properties. I entertain no doubt but that by March 1 congress will have enacted a sound and constructive law for the protection of the railroads and the public alike."

NORTHEASTERN FRANCE IS FLOODED BY RAINS

Paris, Dec. 24.—Heavy continuing rains have flooded the rivers in the northeastern section of France, causing the factories at Remiremont to shut down and rising above the bridges at Belfort, cutting the roads and interrupting wire communication. Much damage to property has occurred.

Yesterday the wind blew over the victory statue at Nancy, which was dedicated by President Poincare. Several fishing vessels have been wrecked by the storms off the north and west coasts and several drownings have been reported.

Condensed Telegrams

House of Common adjourned until Feb. 10.

Former Empress Zita, of Austria, is seriously ill at Prangins.

Anacosta Copper Mining, Co., declared the usual dividend of \$1 per share.

Under Secretary of State Polk reported the situation in Austria to be serious.

Dealings in French premium bonds were forbidden by the London Stock Exchange.

Premier Lloyd George will go to Paris next week to confer with Premier Clemenceau.

Transport Thomas arrived at San Francisco from Siberia with 1,159 American soldiers.

Rumors that he would be a candidate for the presidency were dismissed by Herbert Hoover.

All members of the trades unions in Madrid decided to support the strike of street car employees.

The dollar was quoted at 10 francs 31 centimes, compared with 10 francs 75 centimes at previous close.

Fifteen persons were killed and 35 injured when two trains collided near the Douai station of the Lille-Paris line.

Director Hines signed a contract with the Ashland Coal & Iron Railway Co. fixing annual compensation at \$73,563.

The demise of the Jersey City policemen's union was announced today by P. X. O'Brien, commissioner of public safety.

A French mission to Brazil comprising 20 officers is preparing to sail for Rio Janeiro to help reorganize the Brazilian army.

During the month ended December 10 gold exports from the United States totaled \$8,000,000, compared with \$4,500,000 imports.

Pope Benedict intends to buy two airplanes of the latest type for use of his diplomatic corps. The planes will also be used by the pope.

French Cabinet approved a bill for introduction in the Chamber of Deputies providing for temporary increases in both passenger and freight rates.

Princess Hans von Ratibor, while touring at Breslau, was shot in the arm by an assassin who escaped according to word received in Berlin.

A band of armed men, taking the streets by surprise, raided the railway works at Lillout County Cavan, Ireland, and seized stocks of explosives.

Lee Jerome Slocum, better known as "Cy" turfman and well known race horse owner, died suddenly at his home here in New York of heart disease.

At a meeting of the Cabinet the coal situation and railroad matters were discussed. Secretary Lansing declared the entire coal situation was gone over.

German delegation at Paris has decided not to return to Berlin to consult the government over the terms of the Allied reply to the last German note.

Mayor Hylan believes the demand for a 25 per cent. increase in fares by Interborough Rapid Transit employees is only subterfuge to win increased fares.

A royal proclamation issued by England granted amnesty to political offenders in India and created a chamber of princes. The Prince of Wales will inaugurate the chamber.

Edward Shortt, British secretary of state for home affairs, announced in Commons the government decided to abandon a contemplated scheme for formation of "citizen guards."

British mission in New York working arrangements by which England is assured of securing a regular supply of bacon of good quality at prices based on actual cost of hogs.

Tobacco Products Export Corp. authorized at a special meeting an increase of \$250,000 in the stated capital of the company and authorized an issue of 50,000 shares of stock.

The state department has been asked to verify a report that Delia Bay, former Turkish consul general in New York, and his wife have been murdered by revolutionists in Budapest.

Stockholders of the Boston and Maine Railroad approved plan of issuing \$2,273,000 in bonds to be used to take up an equal amount of bonds issued to the Director General of Railroads.

Governor Smith in a communication to Council of Farms and Markets, recommended removal of Charles S. Wilson as commissioner of agriculture and Dr. Porter as commissioner of foods and markets.

Sir Henry Drayton, Minister of Finance, met the council of the Montreal Board of Trade to discuss the high premium on New York funds which is proving considerable hardship on importers of American goods.

President Poincare will present the Cross of the Legion of Honor and the War Cross on Dec. 26 to the cities of Lens, Bethune and Arras. The following day he will present the War Cross to the city of Bapaume.

Two more arrests were made in Brooklyn of the band of burglars who, according to District Attorney Lewis of Brooklyn, acted in concert with policemen in robberies aggregating thousands of dollars.

Christmas Disclosed at Detzer Courtmartial

Murders and Robberies Committed in Le Mans By Gangs of American and French Soldiers—Women Used as Decoys.

New York, Dec. 24.—Murders and robberies committed in Le Mans by gangs of American and French soldiers using women as decoys were disclosed today by Major George Armstrong, a Detroit efficiency engineer, who served as assistant provost marshal in the American troop area.

Major Armstrong was called by the defense as a witness at the courtmartial on Governor's Island of Captain Karl Detzer of the 388th Military Police Company, who is charged with cruelty to prisoners while directing criminal investigation work in Le Mans. Lieutenant Thomas Hefferman, defense counsel, in attempting to show that these charges were brought by a "ring" out to get Detzer and he has attacked the credibility of virtually every government witness.

Major Armstrong testified that he had direct charge of 2,200 M. P.'s in Le Mans from August, 1918, until January, 1919, and that during this period 1,500,000 passed through the area.

A large lawless element was at work, he said, and while he was in Le Mans 25 murders were committed and 200,000 worth of thousands of dollars worth of furnishings. The things, he said, were known as the "river gang," "chateau gang," "jewelry gang," and other designations denoting their specialty. One French count alone, he said, lost \$25,000 through the operations of the "chateau gang."

"The river gang," he testified, made a practice of using women to lure the soldiers. All the things he said, were arrested by the military police and are now serving sentences of two to five years. Despite the character of the men with whom they had to deal, he said, all "M. P.'s" in the area were ordered not to strike.

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Heaviest Christmas Mail in History

More Than 16,000,000 Pieces Handled in New York in the Last Two Days—Feminine Santa For Wounded Soldiers.

New York, Dec. 24.—The heaviest Christmas mails in the history of the New York postoffice were reported tonight. More than 16,000,000 pieces have been handled here in the last two days and there has been no hitch or congestion.

Foreign as well as domestic mail has shown a full 100 per cent. increase for the holidays with records broken for numbers of pieces outgoing and incoming, money orders bought and cashed, value of insured matter and registered parcels. Nothing like the volume of business ever has been reported before in any postoffice on the American continent, it was said.

Registered Christmas mail alone showed an increase of 300 per cent. in the New York postoffice and the average number of money orders paid here daily this week has been 80,000.

Steamers arriving from Europe are bringing an average of 1,500,000 letters each this season.

Christmas and New Year's cards have increased sixty per cent. over other Yuletides, it was announced.

MAYOR HYLAN'S "CHRISTMAS GREETING" TO CONSTITUENTS

New York, Dec. 24.—In a "Christmas greeting" to the people of New York, issued tonight, Mayor Hylan declared that "never was there a time when capable leaders were so urgently needed as at the present" when "the world is groping its way through devilish national paths." He pointed out that "all the firebrands with their revolutionary doctrines" are rapidly being deported "and will no longer have an opportunity to pollute the free breezes of America."

Let him bind up the wounds of the nations," the mayor urged, "and so

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